


Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



**Natwar M. Gandhi**  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Kwame R. Brown  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Natwar M. Gandhi   
Chief Financial Officer

**DATE:** September 19, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – “Ethics and Accountability Task Force  
Emergency Act of 2011”

**REFERENCE:** Draft legislation shared with OCFO on September 9, 2011

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**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2012 through FY 2015 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation.

**Background**

The proposed legislation establishes, on an emergency basis, an Ethics and Accountability Task Force. The Task Force is comprised of the following members:

- Chairman of the Board of Elections and Ethics;
- The Director of the Office of Campaign Finance;
- The Attorney General;
- The Special Counsel for Ethics in the Office of the Attorney General;
- The Inspector General;
- The District of Columbia Auditor; and
- The Chief Financial Officer

Under the proposed legislation, the Task Force is required to:

- Meet twice a month for no more than a year;

The Honorable Kwame R. Brown

FIS: Draft, "Ethics and Accountability Task Force Emergency Act of 2011" as shared with the OCFO on September 9, 2011

- Assess current ethical guidelines for elected officials<sup>1</sup> and conduct a review of best practices;
- Develop a code of ethics for elected officials, an annual certification document, penalties for ethics violations, and a plan for promoting a culture of ethical behavior; and
- Submit a final report to the Mayor and the Council with findings and recommendations within a year of convening.

The legislation requires the Task Force to convene within 30 days of the effective date of the act, and that all its meetings be closed to the public. The legislation authorizes the members of the Task Force to use their agency staff attorneys to assist with the duties of the Task Force.

### **Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2012 through FY 2015 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation. No additional agency resources are needed to perform the duties of the task force as outlined in the legislation.

This fiscal analysis does not consider the potential fiscal implications on the Office of the Inspector General. The Inspector General opined, through his General Counsel,<sup>2</sup> that his participation in the Task Force would pose a conflict of interest given the independence and the mission of his office.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Defined in the legislation as the Mayor, the Chairman, and members of the Council of the District of Columbia.

<sup>2</sup> Karen E. Branson (email communication, September 15, 2011).

<sup>3</sup> See D.C. Official Code § 1-301.115a.